

Remark

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 3, 12-14, 16, 24 and 28 have been amended. Claims 5, 17 and 26 have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-25, 27 and 28 are present for examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. These claims remain in the case.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection*Abatchev*

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 13-19, 24-26 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as being anticipated by Abatchev, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0024643 ("Abatchev"). Applicants have amended Claims 1, 14, and 24 to incorporate the limitations of Claims 5, 17, and 26, respectively. In the example of Claim 1, this limitation is in the form of "modulating the amplitude of the high power pulse based on the conditions of the plasma."

The Examiner suggests that the limitations of Claims 5, 17, and 26 are shown in Abatchev at paragraphs 27, 28, 30, and 31. Paragraph 31 sums up the other paragraphs. In paragraph 31, "the RF etching systems are adapted to provide an RF frequency voltage bias to produce the plasma within the chamber in a normal manner." "The increased amplitude voltage waveform... facilitates dissipation of accumulated charge on the semiconductor wafer." The increased amplitude voltage waveform is therefore not related to the conditions of the plasma but to the accumulation of charge.

Paragraph 29 describes in more detail selecting the high amplitude voltage waveform depending on the actual accumulated charge on the wafers.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the limitations of Claims 1, 14, and 24 are not shown in the cited references, and that these claims and the claims that depend therefrom are allowable therefor, as well as for the specific limitations set forth expressly in each claim, respectively.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

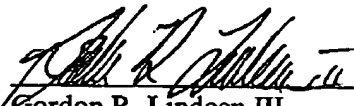
Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension. Charge our Deposit Account.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 5/9/05


Gordon R. Lindeen III
Reg. No. 33,192

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(303) 740-1980

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